

# Wayne Allard

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For Release:  
April 25, 2002

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## ALLARD & KOHL LEAD CONGRESSIONAL FIGHT AGAINST CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE SENATORS SEND LETTER TO COLLEAGUES SEEKING THEIR SUPPORT FOR FUNDING AND RESEARCH ASSISTANCE FROM USDA

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) today continued his work to bring about a “unified effort” from federal agencies and Congress to assist Colorado and other states battling Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Allard has joined forces with Wisconsin Democratic Senator Herb Kohl, Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, in sending a letter to fellow Senators seeking support for emergency funding to assist states in their efforts to contain, treat and prevent the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease.

“We can not allow one stone to be unturned in our battle against Chronic Wasting Disease,” said Allard. “If we do not take this disease head-on right now, we will see this disease redefine the wildlife characteristics of our state and region.”

In the letter from Allard and Kohl to each of their Senate colleagues, the two lawmakers urged their fellow Senators to enlist in the battle against Chronic Wasting Disease by signing a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman asking her to provide three things; emergency funding to assist in the implementation and development of CWD management plans, to reinforce wildlife and agriculture agencies funding to combat the disease, and to give grants to state research Universities and facilities to develop vaccines and other methods to combat the disease.

“State wildlife and agriculture departments do not have the fiscal capacity to adequately confront the problem. Their resources are spread too thin as they attempt to prevent the disease from spreading, treat infected or exposed populations, and research for a cure,” wrote the lawmakers to their colleagues. “Help in the form of emergency funding, research grants, and scientific expertise is urgently needed. Federal and state cooperation will protect animal welfare, safeguard our valued livestock industry, provide relief to family elk ranchers, help guarantee America’s food safety, and protect the public health.”

Allard said the initial response from his colleagues has been very encouraging. Senators Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO), Chuck Hagel (R-NE), and Russ Feingold (D-WI) have all agreed to sign the letter to Veneman.

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